

Social Service PILOT and Comparative Impact Study Committee  
Conference Room 2 7:30 PM Memorial Building Framingham, Ma

Minutes

January 24, 2006

**Note:** If a word or sentence is blue and underlined click for the link.

**Note: A tape recording of these minutes is available upon request**

Attendance: Bob Berman, Yaakov Cohn, Dawn Harkness, Cynthia Laurora., Laurie Lee, Wes Ritchie, Nick Sanchez, Steve Orr, John Speranza

Meeting called to order by Chair Berman at 7:30 PM.

**Review of Minutes**

**1/10, 1/17, 1/19**

Postpone minutes of 1/19

Postpone for corrections to the 1/10 minutes to include the map and appendix from the P&I report

**Motion to accept the minutes from 1/17/06**

**Second**

**Vote: 8 in favor 0 opposed 0 abstain pass**

**Education Questionnaire for the Charter school**

Questions for the McAuliffe Regional Charter School  
PILOT Schools Committee

1.23.06

1. (A) How many students who reside in a group home, shelter or other social service agency located in Framingham go to school at the McAuliffe Regional Charter School?  
(B) Of those students, how many were residents of other towns before they moved into said group home, shelter or other social service agency?
2. How many students who reside in a group home, shelter or other social service agency located outside of Framingham go to school at the McAuliffe Regional Charter School?
3. How does the McAuliffe Regional Charter School define when a student becomes a Framingham resident?
4. How many Framingham students are brought to the McAuliffe Regional Charter School because of a social service program for them or their families?

5. Does the McAuliffe Regional Charter School offer any programs in conjunction with social service agencies for Framingham students? For adults? For community members?
6. (a) How many students who are residents of social service agencies are “outplaced” and at what cost to the town of Framingham?  
(b) How did you arrive at this figure?
7. (a) What is the net expenditure per Framingham pupil?  
(b) How did you arrive at this number?  
(c) Please provide a brief explanation of how the McAuliffe Regional Charter School is funded.
8. (a) What is the net expenditure to the town of Framingham to educate the students who are part of social service programs?  
(b) How did you arrive at this figure?

Wes spoke to Rob Kaufman and based on that discussion made some changes. Wes made a few comments: he eliminated the question relating to taxed properties and the special education question because they were irrelevant to the Charter School. All children take all the same classes. They have a different way of learning and they have a different funding formula. They have extra money for free and reduced lunch and English learners.

Changes and comments:

#6 change cost to expenditure. They do outplacements. How is that funded? Add the wording “in Framingham”

They include transportation costs into total expenditure.

What happens to the reimbursement from parents?

The town provides busing.

Add a question about fees and transportation. Be careful not to count twice from the other numbers we are getting.

Are there any students from SSA’s going to private schools and does transportation costs for them get paid for by the town of Framingham?

That will be added to the original questionnaire.

**Motion to accept the Charter School Questionnaire**

**Second**

**Vote 9 in favor 0 opposed 0 abstain pass**

### **Review of the Social Service Meeting**

Bob suggested the committee should follow up that meeting with a review of the questionnaire and figure out how to turn that meeting into a way to obtain data, the original purpose of the meeting. Bob suggested that we explain what we are looking for

and why, prioritize and simplify what we are looking for and what we should ask from them at this point such that we expect a quick response. This would be for all agencies.

Discussion ensued about the difficulty of this task, other alternatives and the reasoning behind this. Why are they not answering what was already sent out? Will making changes make a difference? What were the confusions and concerns regarding the survey? What needed to be clarified? What is the intent of the committee regarding publication of the addresses? How much detail do we need to have regarding programs? Are we treating our town departments and the SSA's equally?

The committee concluded that they will not re-write the survey but instead, send a letter to all the agencies clarifying the issues raised at the meeting on 1/19/06.

**Motion by Steve Orr to proceed with the survey that we have. In other words, we have no amendments to make to the existing survey. However if there is anything straightforward to add or subtract to the survey that is acceptable.**

**Second**

The status of the police questionnaire was discussed. The group will take a look at it and are reading the documents and data.

**Dawn moved to table this issue.**

**Second**

**Wes made a motion that moving forward that we do for the social service survey the same as the police survey.**

**Second**

Discussion ensued that the police have given us data about crime statistics. Thus we need to same type of information from the agencies.

**Laurie offered a friendly amendment: We send all agencies a letter clarifying the points taken from the meeting of 1/19/06 and answering some concerns raise. This would include clarifying clearly our intent regarding the addresses; a strategy to reduce the amount of work required to answer the program questions and define a Framingham resident for the purpose of this study.**

**Accepted as friendly amendment by Steve**

**Vote to table: 2 in favor 5 opposed 1 abstain fail**

**Vote on Steve's motion with friendly Amendment by Laurie: 5 in favor 1 opposed 2 abstain pass**

**Vote on Wes's motion to go forward and treat all departments and agencies the same and fairly.**

There was a discussion about the similarity and difference in treatment of the SSA's and the police, at this point, with Steve's motion passed. There was a sense that there was a difference in treatment. Bob thought the clarification and suggestions from the letter would be similar to what is being done with the police survey.

Some thought that we were asking a lot more from our police department than the agencies.

Many of the agencies have not given us raw data while the police have.

**Vote: 3 in favor 0 opposed 5 abstain**

Laurie handed out the four handouts from SMOCL mission statement, 2 articles from the MWDN and a list of 42 programs.

### **Background**

Laurie handed out the list of social service agencies in the contiguous communities and for Waltham. The small size of the group enabled her to follow the procedure that she used for Framingham. This list is also a living list and will have updates.

Laurie said that for Marlboro and Waltham she spoke to the planning department.

The background group is working on a methodology to compare the 18 communities in the “other “set. The sheer size of the communities makes it impossible to do a similar comparison as done in Framingham for each of these towns.

Laurie mentioned that Southborough and Wayland have their own department of social services. They have a psychologist and social worker. However they are just for the residents of the town. They are free of charge, donations accepted. They also focus on providing programs for children of the town. What is the cost to the town for this? It was noted that this is why it is important to know how many people that are Framingham residents use the services.

Marlboro Community Service is housed in a government building and funded partially by the City. The main entry is the food pantry. You need to be a Marlborough resident to use that too. They will let you come once and will refer you to another site. They also have direct services and won't turn people away.

The group discussed the elimination of the Human Service department in Framingham and the loss of communication with social services that entailed. There was also a youth service department.

Laurie also mentioned The Waltham Community Day Center. It is run at a church but by a collaboration of agencies, town and residents. It is a community center for the homeless of Waltham. There are programs during the day and things to do.

There was discussion about what to do with the programs that are housed at churches.

Also, many of the agencies seem religious, such as Lutheran Charities or Catholic Charities and will town meeting think we are including churches. Discussion about these not being churches, or religious programs, but social services similar to Jewish Family Services in Framingham.

It was also mentioned that we have to be careful about including governmental departments or buildings. Perhaps make a note.

It was asked if Laurie thought these lists were complete and if anything was done differently.

She said she spent hours digging and using the assessors list on line.

Also guidestar has been a huge help and might provide some good comparative information regarding the size of the agencies.

Laurie also handed out a corrected version of the Forum information and the rooms.  
Bob read his letter to announce the forum.

**Dawn moved to accept the letter**

**Second**

**Vote 7 in favor 0 opposed 1 abstain**

We will have a spot of the town website and some press time informing the public.

**Motion to adjourn**

**Second**

**Vote 7 in favor 1 abstain**

Laurie Lee  
clerk